

In the Claims:

1-5. (Canceled)

6. (Currently Amended) An envelope having encoded thereon a fragile digital watermark representing plural bits of digital data, said watermark **comprising a machine-readable pattern that is being** designed to evidence reproduction by scanning and printing.

7. (Original) An envelope having encoded thereon a machine readable indicia that indicates, to suitably equipped devices, that image data corresponding to said envelope should not be reproduced.

8. (Original) An envelope having steganographically encoded thereon a digital watermark representing postage.

9. (Original) The envelope of claim 8 in which the steganographic encoding takes the form of printing on said envelope.

10. (Original) The envelope of claim 9 in which said printing is with an ink designed for sensing in the ultraviolet or infrared spectra.

11. (Currently Amended) The envelope of claim 8 in which said encoding takes the form of texturing **on of** the surface of ~~said envelope~~ **a substrate by deformation thereof**.

12-18. (Canceled)

19. (Original) An envelope having formed thereon two machine readable indicia, a first of said indicia being a franking mark applied by a first party, the second of said indicia conveying data associated with an authorized user of said envelope, the first and second indicia

cooperating to confirm that use of said envelope by the first party is authorized.

20. (New) The envelope of claim 6 wherein the envelope also includes a franking mark, and wherein the fragile digital watermark and the franking mark are printed by the same printer, having a print resolution of 1200 dots per inch, or less.

21. (New) The envelope of claim 20 wherein the fragile digital watermark and the franking mark are printed by the same printer, having a print resolution of 600 dots per inch, or less.

22. (New) The envelope of claim 20 wherein the fragile digital watermark and the franking mark are printed by the same printer, having a print resolution of 300 dots per inch, or less.

23. (New) The envelope of claim 6 wherein the watermark comprises features of another indicia on the envelope, which indicia features are subtly changed to alter the local luminance or color thereof.

24. (New) The envelope of claim 6 wherein the watermark comprises a texture pattern on the envelope formed by deformation of a substrate material.

25. (New) The envelope of claim 6 wherein the plural bits of digital data represented by the watermark cannot be discerned by human inspection, even with magnification.

26. (New) The envelope of claim 6 wherein the plural bits of digital data are randomized into a pattern, said pattern comprising the fragile digital watermark.

27. (New) The envelope of claim 6 wherein the fragile digital watermark comprises a subtle background pattern that forms no part of any other marking on the envelope.

28. (New) The envelope of claim 7 wherein the envelope also includes a franking mark, and wherein the fragile digital watermark and the franking mark are printed by the same printer, having a print resolution of 1200 dots per inch, or less.

29. (New) The envelope of claim 7 wherein the watermark comprises features of another indicia on the envelope, which indicia features are subtly changed to alter the local luminance or color thereof.

30. (New) The envelope of claim 7 wherein the watermark comprises a texture pattern on the envelope formed by deformation of a substrate material.

31. (New) The envelope of claim 7 wherein the plural bits of digital data represented by the watermark cannot be discerned by human inspection, even with magnification.

32. (New) The envelope of claim 7 wherein the plural bits of digital data are randomized into a pattern, said pattern comprising the fragile digital watermark.

33. (New) The envelope of claim 7 wherein the fragile digital watermark comprises a subtle background pattern that forms no part of any other marking on the envelope.